

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02
OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 STR-07 IO-13
/124 W

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R 090842Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8108
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 3646

DEPT ALSO PASS AID; NAIROBI FOR REDSO/EA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, PDEV, PINT, PINS, SU
SUBJECT: UK AMBASSADOR ON SITUATION IN SOUTHERN SUDAN

SUMMARY: BRITISH AMBASSADOR, WHO RECENTLY VISITED SOUTH IS CONCERNED OVER DETERIORATION OF POLITICAL SITUATION RESULTING FROM EXTREME ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES. HE DESCRIBES SITUATION BETWEEN SOUTH AND NORTH AS BRITTLE. AMBASSADOR BELIEVES SUDANGOV MUST INCREASE ITS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO BELEAGUERED REGION, BUT THAT WESTERN COUNTRIES INCLUDING U.S. SHOULD IN THEIR OWN INTEREST EXPAND AID AS WELL. THIS IS CRUCIAL IN TERMS STABILITY OF SUDAN AND CONTINUED MODERATE NIMEIRI RULE. END SUMMARY.

1. IN TWO RECENT MEETINGS UK AMBASSADOR CARDEN HAS STRONGLY AGRUED THAT WESTERN COUNTRIES INCLUDING U.S. SHOULD QUICKLY EXPAND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO SOUTH. HE VISITED EQUATORIA PROVINCE IN EARLY JUNE AND WROTE DETAILED REPORT TO LONDON IN JULY. HE LET ME READ IT MONDAY AUGUST 7.
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FYI: CARDEN WAS DISTRICT COMMISSIONER IN EQUATORIA IN EARLY FIFTIES. END FYI.

2. CARDEN'S REPORT FOCUSES ON NEW RULERS OF SOUTHERN REGION, I.E. JOSEPH LAGU AND HIS COLLEAGUES, MANY FORMER ANYA NYA SOLDIERS, WHO WERE VOTED INTO POWER LAST SPRING. AMBASSADOR DESCRIBES THEM AS UNSENTIMENTAL GROUP QUOTE

ALMOST TOTALLY PREOCCUPIED WITH SOUTHERN ISSUES. UNQUOTE.
HE WRITES THAT THEIR INTEREST IN NORTH IS DIRECTLY PRO-
PORTIONAL TO RESOURCES NORTH CAN PROVIDE. ON BALANCE HE
CONSIDERS POLITICAL SITUATION VIS-A-VIS NORTH BE BRITTLE.

3. MANY PRESENT LEADERS IN SOUTH WERE IN EXILE FOR YEARS IN
KENYA, UGANDA AND ZAIRE WHERE THEY LEARNED MANY NEW IDEAS AND
TECHNIQUES. CARDEN BELIEVES THAT AS A GROUP THEY ARE COM-
MITTED TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF SOUTHERN REGION. IN HIS
REPORT HE NOTES THAT WITH ALL THAT IS BAD IN SOUTH HE WAS
IMPRESSED BY WHAT WAS GOOD--CLEANLINESS, OLD MACHINERY STILL
WORKING AND QUOTE NUMBER OF EXAMPLES OF VERY DISADVANTAGED
PEOPLE DOING THEIR BEST, AND A VERY GOOD BEST, TO PULL
THEMSELVES UP BY THEIR BOOTSTRAPS. UNQUOTE

4. CARDEN TOLD ME THAT HE SENSED GROWING IMPATIENCE AMONG
SOUTHERN LEADERS OVER LACK OF HELP FROM NORTH IN COMBATTING
EXTREME ECONOMIC PROBLEMS SUCH AS CONSTANT LACK OF FOOD
AND FUEL. HOWEVER, HE NOTES THERE LITTLE NORTH CAN DO
SINCE ITS OWN ECONOMIC PROBLEMS ARE SEVERE. GIVEN HARD-NOSED
ATTITUDE OF NEW SOUTHERN RULERS, CARDEN IS CONCERNED
OVER IMPLICATIONS THIS SITUATION SHOULD IT CONTINUE. HE
BELIEVES IT COULD STRAIN UNITY OF COUNTRY AND IN PROCESS
LEAVE NIMEIRI HIMSELF EXPOSED TO SEVERE POLITICAL DAMAGE.

5. CARDEN HAS DISCUSSED SITUATION WITH NIMEIRI SINCE HIS
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RETURN. HE DESCRIBES SUDANESE PRESIDENT AS GENERALLY AWARE OF
OVERALL PROBLEM. NIMEIRI TOLD CARDEN HE WOULD LIKE TO
SEE UK RAISE ITS LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE TO SOUTH SO THAT IT
EQUALS ONE-THIRD THAT GIVEN REST OF COUNTRY, PROVIDED AID
TO NORTH IS NOT RPT NOT REDUCED. CARDEN HAS ENDORSED THIS
RECOMMENDATION STRONGLY IN HIS REPORT TO LONDON.

6. IN RAISING MATTER WITH ME AND WITH EEC COLLEAGUES, AMBAS-
SADOR CARDEN HAS STRESSED THAT GIVEN EXTREMELY LIMITED
RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO SUDANGOV, IT INCUMBENT ON WESTERN
STATES TO EXPAND THEIR AID TO SOUTH AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.
MOREOVER, THIS SHOULD BE DONE SO THAT SOUTHERNERS WILL FEEL
THAT IT RESULT OF NIMEIRI'S URGING, THEREBY ENHANCING HIS
POSITION. HE SAID WE SHOULD GIVE THE AID BUT IT IMPORTANT
THAT NIMEIRI GETS THE CREDIT. CARDEN BELIEVES SOUTH
DESERVES AID ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS, BUT THAT CONTINUED
POLITICAL COHESION OF SUDAN ALSO REQUIRES SUCH ACTION.

7. COMMENT: AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, OUR OWN INFO ON SOUTHERN
POLITICS IS SKETCHY. NEVERTHELESS, CARDEN'S IMPRESSIONS
ARE CONSISTENT WITH OUR OWN. WE AGREE THAT ECONOMIC SITUATION
IN SOUTH IS DESPERATE AND THAT SOUTHERNERS ARE DISAPPOINTED

AT PERFORMANCE OF NORTH IN HELPING THEM. QUITE APART
FROM CARDEN'S URGINGS WE THINK IT ONLY MATTER OF TIME
BEFORE PRESSURE BUILDS ON USG TO DO ITS SHARE IN SOUTH,
AND AS WE HAVE REPORTED PREVIOUSLY SOUTHERNERS WILL WANT
SOMETHING THAT IS VISIBLE AND PROVIDES CLEAR INDICATION
OF USG INTEREST IN DEVELOPMENT OF REGION. IN THIS CON-
NECTION, CARDEN APPLAUDED OUR GENERAL ASSISTANCE PLANS WHICH
I DESCRIBED TO HIM, BUT HE ADDED SPECIAL PLEA THAT USG
SERIOUSLY CONSIDER PARTICIPATING WITH OTHER DONORS IN JUBA-
KENYA ROAD PROJECT WHICH HE BELIEVES HAS POLITICAL SEX-APPEAL
REQUIRED AND WILL HAVE MAJOR IMPACT IN OPENING SOUTH TO
ECONOMIC EXPANSION.
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